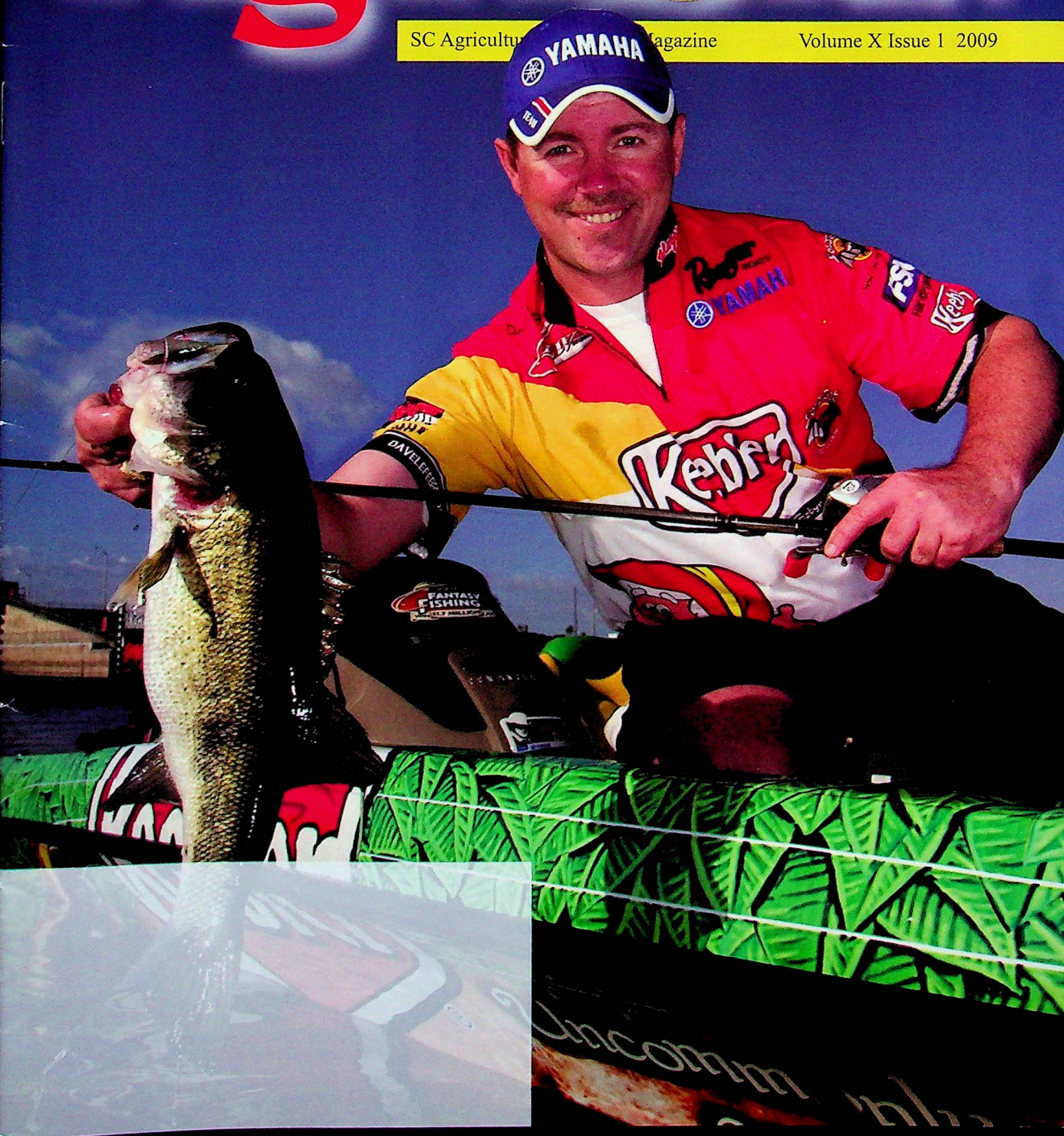


AgriBiz!

SC Agriculture Magazine

Volume X Issue 1 2009



In This Issue...

Agriculture is Number One
Industry in SC 1

SC Agricultural
Educator Officers &
Awards 2&3



SC Young Farmer
& Agribusiness
Educational Tour 4&5



SC FFA Partnered
with FLW Fishing
Tournament 6&7



A Landscape
Miracle at
Lexington
Technology
Center 8&9



More FFA News 10&11



John W. Parris
State Director,
Office of Public Affairs
Editor

AgriBiz!

Volume X Issue 1 2009

State FFA Officers

K. Flint Holbrook—*President*, Clover, SC
Adam Gore—*Secretary*, Loris, SC
Caroline Sherard—*Vice President*, Abbeville, SC
Will Amick—*Vice President*, Lexington, SC
Matthew Adams—*Vice President*, Hamer, SC
Krista McCuen—*Vice President*, Gloverville, SC

State Young Farmer-Agribusiness Officers

Jeff Sandifer—*President*, Barnwell, SC
Michael Nance—*President-elect*, McConells, SC
Jeremy Holtzclaw—*Vice President*, Iva, SC
Tyler Crocker—*Vice President*, Union, SC
Patrick Norris—*Vice President*, Bennettsville, SC
Wesley Ulmer—*Vice President*, Lodge, SC
Edsel Williams—*Executive Treasurer*,
Britton's Neck, SC
Roger Smith—*Past President*, Jefferson, SC

State Agricultural Education Officers

Allen Williams—*President*, Wagener, SC
Mark Earle—*President-Elect*, Simpsonville, SC
Barry Hawkins—*Secretary-Treasurer*, Cope, SC
Harry DuBose—*Past President*, Myrtle Beach, SC

Vice Presidents

Calvert Sherard, Abbeville, SC
Libby Hrlie, Batesburg-Leesville, SC
Jillian Lash, Sumter, SC
Mindy Sandifer, Blackville, SC

Associate Vice Presidents

Tim Keown, Iva, SC
Annette Vaughn, Union, SC
Bert Beasley, Lamar, SC
Michael Crim, Monetta, SC

Clemson University Agricultural Education Staff

William E. Keels—*State Director*, Columbia, SC
H. Keith Cox—*SC FFA Executive Secretary-Treasurer*,
Florence, SC

Stephen E. Sanderson—*Associate State Director*,
Sumter, SC

Chris M. Corzine—*Associate State Director*,
Anderson, SC

Brenda Baldwin—*Administrative Assistant*,
Columbia, SC

SC FFA Office of Public Affairs

John W. Parris, *State Director*
AgFirst Farm Credit Bank Bldg.
1401 Hampton Street
Columbia, SC 29201
Telephone: 803-771-0520
Fax: 803-771-9009
Email: scffa@bellsouth.net

SC FFA Center

Zane Bryant—*Resident Director*,
North Myrtle Beach, SC

Designer

Clinton D. Henderson III, emediagroup

Subscribe to AgriBiz!

Send a check for \$10 to:

SC FFA Public Affairs
1401 Hampton Street
Columbia, SC 29201

Visit our Web Site: www.scaged.org

Cover photo courtesy of FLW Outdoors

Cover Story: Dave Lefebvre, Union City, PA,

Agribusiness is Top Industry in SC

SC Agricultural Facts

Forests cover two-thirds of the total land area in South Carolina and timber is the state's most valued crop.

In the animal agriculture category, broilers consistently rank as number one and turkeys come in at third.

The green industry including greenhouses, nurseries, turf and floriculture is the second largest agricultural industry in the state.

The top ten agriculture commodities listed in order here are broilers; greenhouse, nursery and floriculture; turkeys; cattle and calves, corn, eggs, soybeans, cotton/cottonseed; tobacco and milk production.

National Ag Week

March 15-21, 2009

National Ag Day

March 20, 2009

visit www.info.agday.org

We have just confirmed what we've thought for years: Agribusiness is the number one industry in South Carolina.

A study, prepared by Miley, Gallo and Associates for the Palmetto Agribusiness Council, reveals that the agribusiness of agriculture and forestry in South Carolina is one of the largest economic clusters and major economic engines in the state. Together, they have a direct and indirect economic impact of \$33.9 billion a year. Agribusiness provides almost 200,000 jobs in the state.

The methods used for the study are on the conservative side. It does not include financial information on food stores, restaurants and the fiber industry. Nor does it include agriculture-based tourism and forestry-based tourism or government employees involved in the industry. Add those areas to the already huge agribusiness industry and the impact could be even more staggering.

Why is this information so important? The role of agriculture and forestry has long been overlooked in the state's economy. Few public officials and legislators are directly involved in agriculture or forestry nowadays and people are more removed from the farm than ever. For a time, the short distance from field to fork had become light years in the minds of people. But we see a change in that more and more folks will go the distance looking for local buying opportunities.

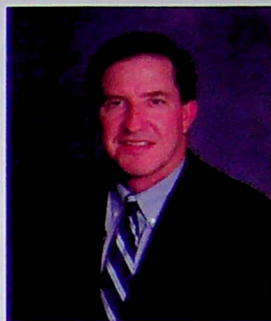
We learned in our early research for the Certified SC Grown Branding and Marketing program that 90 percent of the shoppers surveyed would purchase South Carolina products if competitively priced and good quality. The campaign is a powerful awareness tool in planting the message to Buy South Carolina.

The economic impact study examines historical data, but what's more important is that agriculture and forestry will also play an even greater role in our future. Take energy for example. Advancing production of biomass energy resources and technologies will help keep energy dollars in South Carolina and fuel our economic engine.

At the same time, agriculture and forestry will continue to play a major role in maintaining our nation's balance of trade. South Carolina exports about \$1.4 billion in agricultural and forest products annually. The agribusiness export market is increasingly important to the well being of our state and nation in reducing our trade imbalance.

The study also shows the importance of buying and selling agribusiness products that ripples down through the economy. To produce one dollar of new product, employees must be hired and paid. Wages spent on these workers will be spent on goods and services such as food, fuel, clothing and housing. As these dollars are spent they become income to others. The spending cycle continues and the economy grows. Research shows that almost 80 percent of agriculture dollars stays in South Carolina.

The South Carolina Department of Commerce reports that "agriculture and forestry together have the largest impact on our state's economy".



Hugh E. Weathers

Information for this article was taken from a column in the SC Market Bulletin by State Commissioner of Agriculture Hugh E. Weathers.

SC Agricultural Educators

The annual state conference of Agricultural Educators was held at Clemson University during the summer. **Harry DuBose** (left, inside picture at right) of Myrtle Beach, agricultural education instructor at Carolina Forest High School and advisor to the Myrtle Beach FFA Chapter, presided over the conference as president. While on the Clemson campus, Mr. DuBose was interviewed by Clemson Agricultural Public Relations Executive **Roy Scott** (right, inside picture at right) for a broadcast on the "Our Day" National Public Radio program heard throughout South Carolina, and portions of North Carolina and Georgia.

State Agricultural Educators Officers

Association officers elected for 2008-09 include **Allen Williams**, president, Wagener-Salley; **Mark Earle**, president-elect, Hillcrest; **Barry Hawkins**, secretary-treasurer, Edisto; vice presidents **Calvert Sherard**, Abbeville Career Center; **Libby H. Templeton**, Batesburg-Leesville; **Jillian Lash**, Lakewood; and **Mindy Sandifer**, Barnwell; associate vice presidents **Tim Keown**, Crescent; **Annette Vaughan**, Union; **Bert Beasley**, Darlington; and **Michael Crim**, Ridge Spring-Monetta. **Harry DuBose** will continue to serve on the executive committee as past president.

State Agricultural Education Awards

Agricultural Educators recognized at the conference were **Allen Williams**, Outstanding Agricultural Educator in South Carolina, Wagener-Salley; **Amanda Nichols**, Outstanding Young Agricultural Educator, Saluda; **Hugh Bland** and **Dan Henderson**, Outstanding Program, Strom Thurmond Career Center; **Steve McGaha** and **Audie Green**, Outstanding Adult Program, Anderson I & II Career & Technology Center; **Barry Burdette**, Outstanding Teacher Mentor Award, Woodmont; and **Kip Beam**, Teacher Turn the Key Award, Chester.

Dr. H. Wayne Beam of Columbia was named recipient of the **John W. Parris** Agricultural Leadership Award. Dr. Beam, president of Beam and Associates, a nationally recognized Environmental and Legislative Affairs Consulting Firm headquartered in Columbia, is an FFA alumnus and former deputy director of the SC Land Resources Commission which was headed by Mr. Parris. He retired from state government as executive director of the SC Coastal Council.

SC Agricultural Educators Receive National Awards

South Carolina Agricultural education instructors recognized during the National Agricultural Education conference in Charlotte, NC, December 2-6, 2008, include **Allen Williams**, state association president, who accepted the Professional State Association Award plaque. **Steve McGaha** and **Audie Green**, advisors at the Anderson I & II Career and Technology Center, were recognized for having the Outstanding Adult Agricultural Education program in the southern states and one of the top six in the nation. They were awarded a Toyota Tundra Double Cab 5.7 L V8 4x4 truck by Toyota Motor Sales on a two year arrangement for use in the promotion of agricultural education.

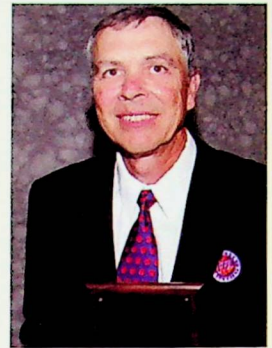
Barry Burdette, agricultural education instructor at Woodmont High School, was one of six individuals in the nation to receive the Teacher Mentor Award. He was presented a plaque, a travel stipend and complimentary registration to attend the National Agricultural Educators conference. This award is sponsored by CEV Multimedia. **Kip Beam**, agricultural education instructor at the Chester County Career Center, was one of 45 individuals nationwide to receive the Teachers Turn the Key Award. Dodge sponsors this award as a special project of the National FFA Foundation.



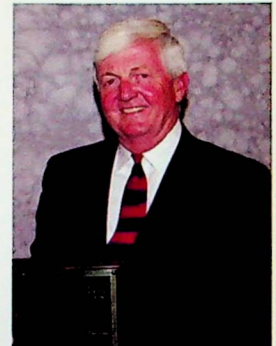
Harry DuBose (left) with Roy Scott



Amanda Nichols



Hugh Bland



Dr. H. Wayne Beam



President-elect of the NAAE, Ray Nash of Mississippi (left) presents award to Allen Williams

Officers and Award Recipients



*Steve McGaha (left)
with Chris Lacefield
representing Toyota
Motor Sales*

2008 NAAE CONVENTION



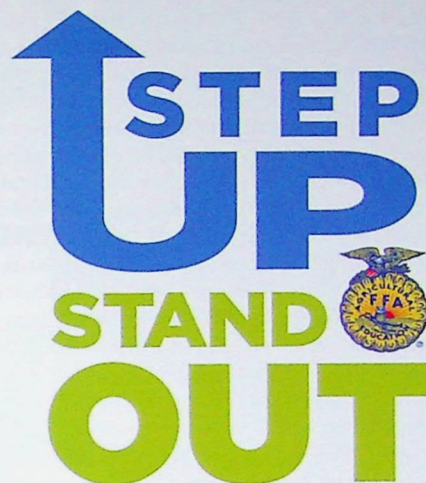
*Jay Terrel (left), CEV
Multimedia; Barry
Burdette; Glenn Perryman,
CEV Multimedia; and
Harold Eckler, 2008
National President of the
NAAE*

*Ray Nash
with Kip
Beam*

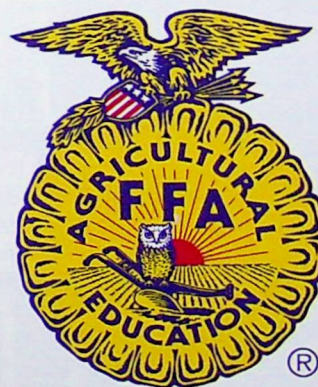


*Pictured at right: SC Agricultural
Educators Mark Earle (left), Kip Beam,
NAAE President-elect Ray Nash, Barry
Hawkins, Allen Williams, Joe Wilson, and
Steve McGaha at National Convention*

National FFA Week



NATIONAL FFA WEEK
February 21-28, 2009



**SC FFA-Sponsored
Legislators Appreciation
Day Ceremony and Luncheon
February 25, 2009
Columbia, SC**

SC Young Farmer & Agribusiness

The SC Young Farmer & Agribusiness Association Study Tour held July 11-12, 2008, was hosted by Darlington, Antioch and Timmonsville Young Farmer & Agribusiness chapters. The Plantation Inn near Florence was headquarters for the event.

The tour began on Friday afternoon, July 11, at McLeod Farms. In operation since 1916, the farm offers the sweetest, freshest fruits and vegetables available. The marketing season begins with the daily harvesting of 15 acres of strawberries from March through June. Peaches are the signature fruit of the McLeod Farms with more than 35 varieties grown on 700 acres. The peaches are marketed commercially throughout the United States, Canada, and neighboring countries. Fruit, jarred products and baked goods are also sold at their local farm market. Additionally, the farm produces and markets sweet corn, squash, cucumbers, eggplant, bell peppers, okra, tomatoes, cantaloupes, watermelons, scuppernongs, and muscadines. Fall produce includes collards, peas, turnips and sweet potatoes. The farm hosts an annual Strawberry and Peach Festival. Agri-tourism activities include providing wagon ride tours of the sweet sorghum maze and pumpkin field for nearly three thousand students each year. Visit the McLeod Farms web site at www.MacsPride.com

The evening session featured a delightful dinner at the Plantation Inn Restaurant followed by viewing some of the latest agricultural equipment on display nearby. An ice cream social with ice cream provided by McLeod Farms was held at the home of former Congressman Ed Young and his wife, Harriet. Mr. Young served as president of the SC Young Farmer & Agribusiness Association in 1952 and was named the Outstanding Young Farmer in South Carolina in 1955.

The Saturday morning tour began with a welcome to the headquarters of Carolina Plantation Rice in Mont Clare by plantation manager, Harold Kelly. Carolina Plantation Rice is owned by the Campbell Coxé family. The rice comes from Plumfield Plantation on the Great Pee Dee River. Plumfield is the only colonial plantation in the Carolinas producing rice for commercial sale. The special grain has an aroma and taste that cannot be found in a local grocery store. Carolina Plantation introduced aromatic rice to South Carolina in 1996. Visit their web site at www.carolinaplantationrice.com for more details about the operation and to purchase rice, corn meal, rice flour and Carolina Plantation Fish Fry mix.

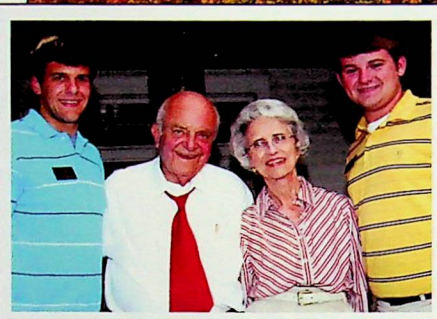
Another impressive stop was at the Woodard Farms where the group was greeted by members of the Woodard family including Frankie, Connie, Wes and Ty. The Darlington County farm was started in 1962 by the late Frank Woodard. His son Frankie, a graduate of Clemson University, returned to the farm. In recent years, Frankie's sons Wes and Ty, both graduates of Clemson, returned to one of the most successful family farming operations in the Pee Dee region. Today, they produce and market over 100 acres of tobacco, 1400 acres of soybeans, 1100 acres of cotton, and 500 acres of corn. They also manage a 100 head of commercial and Angus cow-calf operation.

The final stop was at the Clemson University Pee Dee Research and Education Center where the group visited the Wildlife Trail and demonstration areas led by T. J. Savereno, Wildlife Biologist. A delicious luncheon and brief assembly program concluded the very successful two day agricultural education event.

The event was planned and coordinated by Don Boice, Chief Relationship Manager with ArborOne Financial, who also serves as an advisor to young farmer-agribusiness chapters in the area; Bert Beasley and Al Gray, agricultural education instructors at the Darlington County Institute of Technology, the Darlington County Agricultural Education



State FFA President Flint Holbrook (left) and State FFA Vice President Matthew Adams listen as Spencer McLeod explains the scientific and technical knowledge required to produce quality peaches. Don Boice is at right.



Flint Holbrook (left), former US Congressman Ed Young, Harriet Young and Matthew Adams

Sirvasteen and George Ulmer, Orangeburg chapter, enjoy a visit to the McLeod Farms Market.



Top quality peaches being graded at the McLeod Farms in preparation for marketing.

Study Tour A Great Success



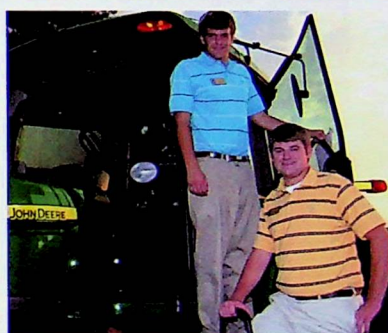
*Participants at the
Pee Dee REC Auditorium*



*Frankie Woodard discusses
their farming operation*



*Wes Woodard (left), Frankie Woodard, Connie
Woodard, Mathew Adams and Ty Woodard*



*State FFA officers Flint Holbrook
(left) and Matthew Adams check out
a new John Deere tractor on display
at the Plantation Inn*



*Matthew Adams (left) with
Harold Kelly and Don Boice*



*Harry DuBose and his wife, Gayle,
enjoy a sample of rice dessert*

Tour Sponsors

ArborOne Financial
Darlington County Farm Bureau
Crop Production Services
SC Farm Bureau
SC Pork Board
Pee Dee Electric Cooperative
Sparrow and Kennedy Equipment
Company
Nationwide Insurance
BASF
Rain and Hail Crop Insurance
Goldleaf Seed Company
McLeod Farms
Lydia Crop Insurance
DuPont
Valent
Hammond Tools and Fastener
UAP Carolinas Bishopville
Monsanto
Bayer
Earl Dudley Scouting Service
Turbeville Insurance
Travelers Insurance
Tractor Supply of Florence
Agri-Supply of Florence
Jared's ACE Hardware
Henderson's ACE Hardware
Northside Feed and Seed
Southern Nut Company
Southern States Cooperative of
Florence



Carolina Plantation Rice

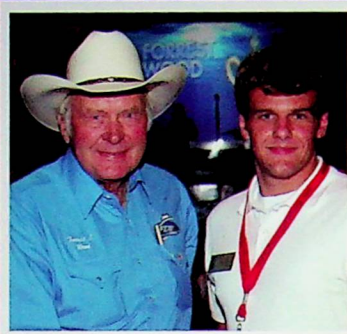
SC FFA Association Partnered

The SC FFA Association joined with FLW Outdoors as a promotional partner during the Forrest Wood Cup at Lake Murray, August 14-17, 2008. The tournament was FLW Outdoors' year ending bass fishing championship. The tournament offered a \$2 million cash purse with \$1 million first place prize going to twenty-four year old Michael Bennett of California. He is the youngest winner in the Forrest L. Wood Cup history. The presentation was made at the final spectacular weigh-in ceremony at the Colonial Center in Columbia, SC on Sunday evening, August 17.

Other highlights of the tournament included a Family Fun Zone, an impressive fishing exhibition that filled the Columbia Metropolitan Convention Center and adjacent parking areas. Also taking place were daily weigh-in ceremonies at the Colonial Center, a free Tracy Byrd concert, Jimmy Houston fishing seminars and a youth fishing clinic.

The SC FFA Association, the first one in the nation to partner with FLW Outdoors, displayed an attractive informational booth at the Columbia Metropolitan Center featuring the state FFA officer team, the state FFA stars and the top three FFA chapters in the state. Hundreds of visitors including FFA alumni from throughout the nation stopped by the display to meet the state FFA members and enjoy a fresh South Carolina peach.

FFA members and their guests received a VIP pass for the final weigh-in event at the Colonial Center and were seated near the stage where the action took place. Many of them, including some state officers, were shown on TV newscasts later in the evening. A FLW Outdoors official recognized the state FFA officers and members to a packed house of thousands. He also introduced State FFA President Flint Holbrook and announced that the Pelion FFA Chapter had won the expense-paid trip to the National FFA Convention sponsored by John W. Parris, state director of public affairs with the SC FFA. The chapter had registered the largest number of members and guests at the FFA display



*Forrest L. Wood
(left) meets
with State FFA
President Flint
Holbrook*



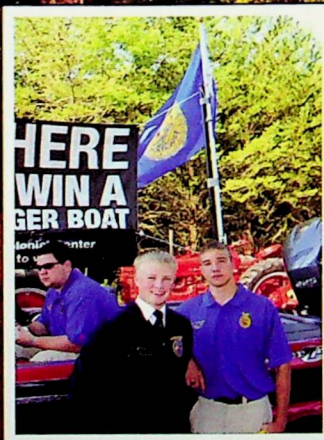
Seated from left to right at the SC FFA Display are state officers Caroline Sherard and Adam Gore. Standing from left to right are Scott Ellison, an official with FLW Outdoors; state officers Flint Holbrook and Matthew Adams. John W. Parris is at right.



Billy Keels (standing), state director of Agricultural Education, and his daughter Krissy were seated adjacent the stage in the VIP section at the Colonial Center for the final Weigh-In Ceremony along with FFA members, advisors and guests



*National FLW Champion
Fisherman Michael Bennett,
California*



*State FFA Vice President
Will Amick (center) with
Pelion FFA President T.J.
Lundeen and Adam
Christopher at the Ranger
boat used as their float in
the Pelion Peanut Party
Parade. The boat was later
given away at the FLW
Fishing Tournament*

with FLW Fishing Tournament

during the four day event.

FLW Outdoors, named after Forrest L. Wood, the legendary founder of Ranger Boats, is the largest fishing tournament organization in the world. In 2009 alone the organization is offering more than 90,000 anglers the chance to win over \$40 million through 230 tournaments in 10 circuits. FLW Outdoors is also taking fishing mainstream with FLW Fantasy Fishing, offering the largest awards possible in the history of fantasy sports, \$10 million in cash and prizes. Visit FLWOutdoors.com and fantasyfishing.com for more information on events near you. Also contact outreach@flwoutdoors.com if you would like to participate in an FLW Outdoors event.

As a result of South Carolina FFA partnering with FLW Outdoors, Mr. Parris was asked to arrange a joint meeting of FLW officials and national FFA leaders to discuss a cooperative venture for the benefit of FFA members throughout the country during the 2009 FLW Outdoors season. A two-day meeting was held in Indianapolis, Indiana, during the National FFA Convention and concluded with a luncheon for officials of both organizations along with SC State FFA President K. Flint Holbrook at the Skyline Club hosted by Mr. Parris.



State FFA officers Flint Holbrook (left) with Adam Gore, Matthew Adams and Caroline Sherard check out the peaches that were being distributed to visitors.



State FFA Vice President Will Amick (left) with the Tiger mascot and other state officers Flint Holbrook and Adam Gore.



McBee FFA Advisor Pat Earle (left) with FFA members Halee Polson and Zach Earle. State FFA president Flint Holbrook is at right.



Adam Gore (left), Will Amick, Pelion FFA Advisor Frank R. Stover, Pelion FFA President T.J. Lundeen and Flint Holbrook. The Pelion Chapter won the trip to the National FFA Convention for having the largest number of individuals register at the FFA display during the tournament.

The stage setting in the Colonial Center for final Weigh-In



A Landscape Miracle at

Agricultural Education students at Lexington Technology Center created a miracle on the landscape adjacent the agricultural education department complex thanks to the vision and planning of instructor Tommy Harmon.

As a part of this vision, Harmon secured the services of faculty members in the Horticulture and Landscape Design Department at Spartanburg Community College to develop a comprehensive plan that would transform the area into an aesthetically pleasing site while offering expanded educational opportunities for students.

Upon receipt of the professionally prepared design plan, Harmon proceeded to develop and submit an Educational Improvement Act (EIA) grant to partially finance implementation of the plan. The grant was approved and awarded to the center.

With the design and grant in hand, Harmon accepted an offer from the Greater Columbia Landscape Association to join with the center to make the project a reality.

(Continued on page 9)

Key participants in the Landscape Project included Instructor Tommy Harmon (left); State FFA Vice President Will Amick; Kleck Harman, Harman Landscaping and Irrigation; Lexington FFA President Suzette Sharpe; Pete Hellman, Windmill Landscaping Services; and Danny Monts, Mid-Carolina Lawn Care Services



Hillary Webb and Will Amick plant pansies in a flower bed adjacent the greenhouse



Andrew Merritt and Hillary Webb place permanent sod around the greenhouse



Lexington Technology Center



Andrew Chandler (left) and Dillon Price plant one of the many shrubs near the greenhouse

A major piece of landscape equipment preparing the soil.



(continued from page 8)

Harmon and his students along with the landscape professionals decided the unique project could be completed in one day. So on November 11 the students divided into small groups with a landscape professional assigned to each group to begin the challenging experience.

The cooperating association members brought equipment of all sizes needed to prepare the site and implement the plan. That equipment was operated by the students as they worked diligently to accomplish the task. Numerous pallets of sod were placed outside the work area along with trees, shrubs, flowers, decorative stone, pine straw and rolls of black plastic. The students planted many of the materials on the National Nursery Landscape list so the specimens would be on the school grounds.

A major educational opportunity was realized during the day as twenty six students shadowed the landscape professionals.

By working together, Harmon and his students with valuable assistance from the landscape professionals were successful in fulfilling a dream and completing what seemed to be an impossible goal while creating a miracle on the landscape at the center.

Lexington FFA Members Provide Poinsettias to Governor's Mansion

Lexington Technology Center FFA members presented poinsettias to First Lady Jenny Sanford to decorate the Governor's Mansion at Christmas.

The plants were grown by the students in the center's state-of-the-art greenhouse facility as part of their comprehensive training in Horticulture and Greenhouse Operation courses.

Suzette Sharp is president of the Lexington FFA Chapter and Tommy Harmon is the Agricultural Education Instructor and FFA advisor at the center.

Pictured: Tommy Harmon (left), Cameron Rickard, Andrew Demastes, Hannah Kyzer, Andrew Chandler, Kaylon Meetze, Travis Jolly, Suzette Sharpe, First Lady Jenny Sanford, Dillon Price, Amanda Kyzer, Daniel Rummel, Cody Roberts and Ms. Peggy Sease, assistant director, Lexington Technology Center.



SC FFA Members Participate In Clemson Ag Tailgate Event

Hundreds of FFA members, their advisors, parents and other supporters from throughout South Carolina were among the more than 1700 Clemson University agriculture alumni, students and friends to attend the College of Agriculture, Forestry and Life Sciences-sponsored Ag Tailgate program and luncheon at the Fike Recreation Center on September 27, 2008, prior to the Clemson-Maryland football game.

Among the highlights of the event was the *Red, White and Forever Blue* tour display featuring the National FFA Collegiate Programs sponsored by Toyota Trucks. The participants heard greetings from President Jim Barker, Commissioner of Agriculture Hugh Weathers and Dean Alan Sams. State FFA President K. Flint Holbrook of Clover presented a gift basket of farm products to President and Mrs. Barker on behalf of McLeod Farms, McBee, and the College of Agriculture, Forestry and Life Sciences.



William Nelson

Former state FFA Vice President William Nelson of Clinton, a sophomore at Clemson majoring in Agricultural Education, took first place honors in the SC Farm Bureau Federation-sponsored Collegiate Discussion Meet held in conjunction with the Tailgate event. He was awarded a \$500 scholarship and an expense-paid trip to the National Young Farmer and Rancher Conference in Sacramento, California, February 7-9, 2009, to compete in the national finals. Former State FFA Vice President Jason

Gore of Loris was named runner-up in the competition.

Following the Tailgate event, State FFA President Flint Holbrook and John W. Parris were guests of President and Mrs. Jim Barker in the President's Box for the Clemson-Maryland football game.

The FFA members at the Ag Tailgate event also attended the Clemson-Maryland football game.

SC FFA Members Attend Cooperative Education Conference



Marie Stiles (left), executive director of the SC Cooperative Council, with South Carolina FFA members Hunter Cooper, Calhoun Falls; Danae Hicks and Stephanie Cocchia, Crescent; Flint Holbrook, Clover; Christopher Sumpter, Crestwood; and William Sherard of Calhoun Falls at the National Institute of Cooperative Education Conference in Ashville, NC. State FFA President Flint Holbrook addressed the conference and joined former state FFA officer Hunter Cooper as a counselor for the event attended by high school students from throughout the nation.



Jeff Papke (left), Team Leader for Collegiate Programs with the National FFA Organization, Indianapolis, Indiana; Clemson University President Jim Barker and State FFA President Flint Holbrook.

Williamson Addresses AgFirst Bank Conference



Former National FFA President and 2008 White House intern Beau Williamson of Clovis, California, addressed the annual conference of the AgFirst Farm Credit Bank held at the Grove Park Inn in Ashville, NC, in July 2008.

More than 1000 conference participants from fifteen states and the commonwealth of Puerto Rico heard Beau's inspiring address which was professionally video taped for distribution to farm credit association officials.

John W. Parris, state director of public affairs with the SC FFA organization, coordinated arrangements to bring Beau to the conference and also attended as a guest of the bank.

Pictured: Andy Lowrey (left), CEO and President, AgFirst Farm Credit Bank, Columbia, SC; former National FFA President Beau Williamson; AgFirst Farm Credit Bank Vice President Maribeth Corbett, and Tom Welsh, Executive Vice President of the bank, at the conference.

Laurens Equine Team to Compete in National Finals

Laurens FFA Advisor Melanie Birchmore (left) with state FFA champion Equine Science Team members Tiffany Crowder, Alison Stokes and Chelsea Calvert. State FFA Vice President Matthew Adams is at right. The Laurens team took first place honors in the state finals and were awarded expense-paid trips along with their advisor to the 2009 National FFA Convention by the SC FFA Foundation to compete in the national finals. Meredith Walker of Union was the high scorer in the State Competition.



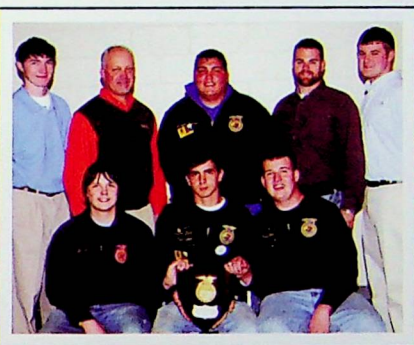
Loris and Abbeville FFA Soils Teams in National Finals

Finalists in the 2008 State FFA Soil Judging competition were the Loris team which took top honors and the Abbeville team which was named runner-up in the event. They will compete in the National FFA Soil Judging Finals in Oklahoma in May 2009. Woodmont FFA member Dillon Myers, the high individual scorer in the state event, was awarded an expense-paid trip to the National FFA Convention. Aynor team member Mindy Richardson, the second high scorer, was presented an engraved watch. Wayne Huddleston with Duke Energy presented the awards on behalf of all the sponsors.

Co-sponsors of the state competition include: Duke Energy, Progress Energy, SCANA, Inc., the SC Conservation Districts Association and the SC Conservation Districts Foundation.

The event was planned and conducted by USDA NRCS soil scientists and Clemson Agricultural Education administrative staff. State FFA officers Adam Gore and Matthew Adams also assisted with the competition.

Ethan Todd (seated at left) with Gordon Best and William Hardee. Standing from left is State FFA Secretary Adam Gore, Wayne Huddleston, Jarrett Johnson, Nate Bellamy and State FFA Vice President Matthew Adams.



Abbeville team members John Chaney (seated at left) with Brianna Noblin and Clay Hall. Standing from left is Adam Gore, Wayne Huddleston, Ronnie Cann, Fred Raines and Matthew Adams.



Wayne Huddleston (left), Dillon Myers and Barry Burdette



Gilbert FFA Forestry Team in National Finals



Gilbert FFA Forestry Team members Nathan Harman, Magness Greenthaler, Henry Hutto and Jonathan Starnes took first place honors in the state finals and were awarded expense-paid trips to the 2009 National FFA Convention along with Advisor Derrick Cooper by Horry-Georgetown Technical College. Strom Thurmond team member Zach Rearden was the high individual scorer. The state event is conducted by the Horry-Georgetown Technical College Forestry and Wildlife Management Chair Brian J. Clark, Forestry Professor DeAnna Eddy and Associate Professor Jim Westerhold.



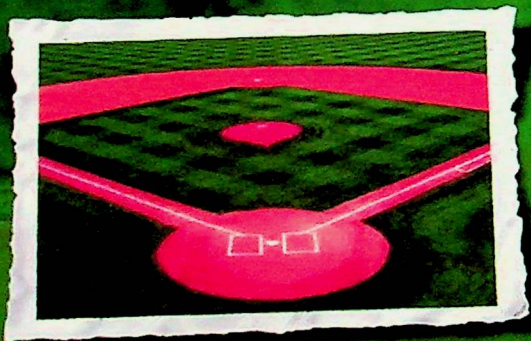
Adam Gore (left), Zach Rearden and Brian J. Clark

Everyone
ited for a
sk Job.



New Wildlife Management Program

The Wildlife Management curriculum is designed to prepare students for entry into the field of developing, conserving and managing wildlife resources. Students will gain an understanding of the principles and develop competence in the production, utilization and conservation of wildlife resources. Students will also learn to communicate and deal effectively with the public. Graduates should qualify as wildlife management technicians with state and federal agencies and private enterprises involved in natural resource management.



The Golf & Sports Turf Management Program has been enhanced.

HGTC offers the only two-year Golf and Sports Turf Management program in South Carolina, and has been ranked as one of the top three two-year Golf Course Management schools in the U.S.! Course study includes hands-on instruction at Quail Creek Golf Club, adjacent to the Conway Campus.

Y-GEORGETOWN
NICAL COLLEGE
earn more. Earn more.

(843) 349-5277 | www.hgtc.edu

Searching for your life's work?

Consider working
for LIFE!

CLEMSON
UNIVERSITY

Agriculture, Forestry and Life Sciences
Offering Careers for Life!

Agriculture Undeclared
Agricultural Economics
Agricultural Education
Ag Mech & Business
Animal & Veterinary Sciences
Biochemistry
Biological Sciences (BA & BS)
Biosystems Engineering
Community & Economic Development
Environmental & Natural Resources
Food Science & Human Nutrition
Forest Resource Management
Genetics
Horticulture
Microbiology
Packaging Science
Pre-Pharmacy
Pre-Professional Health Studies
Pre-Rehabilitation Sciences
Turfgrass
Wildlife & Fisheries Biology

888-472-LIFE

www.clemson.edu/cafls

For more information, contact:

Katie Hulse
101 Barre Hall
Clemson, SC 29634-0303
hulse@clemson.edu



Some just grow up
loving the land.



We'll be here for them.

No one understands the challenges and dreams of America's future farmers better than Farm Credit. And no one is more motivated to help make those dreams come true. We've been financing rural America for 90 years and we'll be here when it's their time.

Whether it's land, barns, equipment, vehicles, or even buying a home, we know where to begin. Call us; we're the experts.

 **FARM CREDIT**

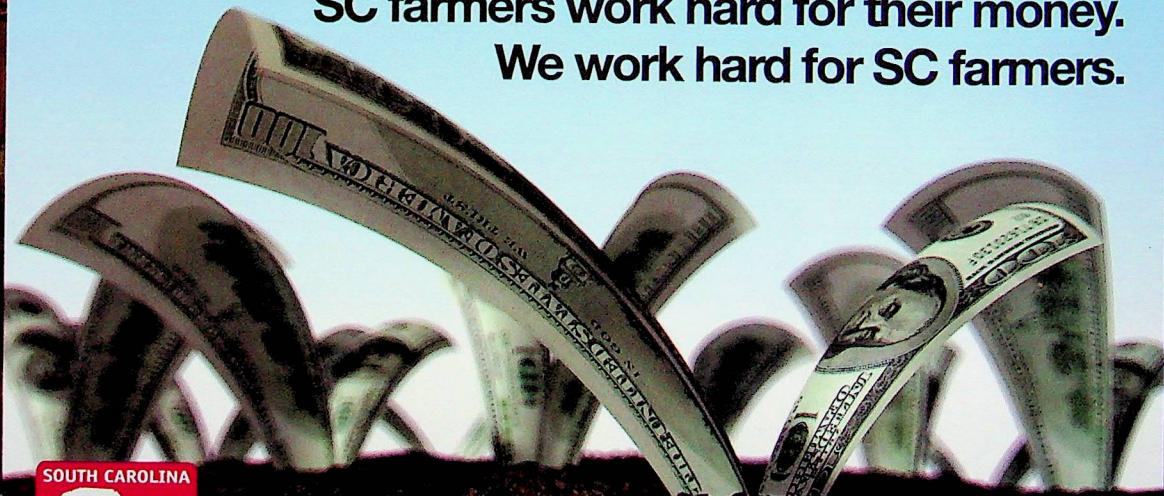
Loans for Agriculture and a whole lot more.

1-800-673-3999

www.agfirst.com

 Equal Housing Lender

**SC farmers work hard for their money.
We work hard for SC farmers.**



SOUTH CAROLINA



For over 60 years, we've helped our members with a more-than-effective voice in government, award-winning educational programs and outstanding value-added member benefits. We're all about agriculture. Won't you join us?

Annual dues vary by county (no more than \$40).

SC Farm Bureau is a 501(c)(6) organization. Contributions are not deductible as charitable contributions for federal income tax purposes. They may be deductible as trade or business expenses, if they are ordinary & necessary in the conduct of the taxpayer's trade or business.

www.SCFB.org • 1-866-FB-Member